

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IOE-00 SP-02 NIC-01

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O R 251655Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6493

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, WTO

SUBJECT: POSITION OF EC STATES TOWARD WTO

REF: STATE 41299

1. WE CALLED ON DONAL THORNHILL, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, & DOMINICK FITZPATRICK, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER, TO OBTAIN BRIEFING ON FEBRUARY 24 EC-9 MEETING IN DUBLIN ON WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (WTO). THORNHILL AND FITZPATRICK WERE MOST EMPHATIC IN SAYING THAT MEETING WAS MERELY INFORMAL CONSULTATION AMONG NINE AND THAT TO CALL IT "HARMONIZATION" OF EC VIEWS WOULD BE TO OVERSTATE THE CASE. THEY ADDED THAT MEETING WAS NO MORE THAN CONTACT AMONG EC NINE WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO ONGOING CONSULTATIONS IN LARGER FRAMEWORK IN GENEVA.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS, FEBRUARY 24 MEETING PRODUCED NO DECISIONS, AND NO RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TO BE MADE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN WTO. COMMUNITY ITSELF WILL NOT JOIN WTO, BUT MANY MEMBERS MAY AVAIL THEMSELVES OF WTO ARTICLE 42 WHICH PERMITS TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP IN WTO WITHOUT UNDERTAKING COMMITMENT. IRELAND WILL PROBABLY JOIN AS TEMPORARY MEMBER. FITZPATRICK SAID THAT AMONG THE EC-9 THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN NAT-

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IONAL POSITIONS WHICH, HE SAID, ARE WELL KNOWN TO INTERESTED

AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON. HE ADDED THAT NO CONSENSUS REACHED ON POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN AT FIRST ASSEMBLY OF WTO IN MADRID.

3. THORNHILL AND FITZPATRICK STATED THAT THERE IS CONCERN AMONG THE NINE OVER THE DEVELOPMENT OF WTO. THEY FEEL THAT IT IS NOT BEING CONDUCTED ON A BUSINESSLIKE, LEGAL BASIS. THERE IS CONCERN THAT IT IS DEVELOPING ON PURELY AD HOC EXPEDIENT BASIS AND THAT IT MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO CONTRAVENE ITS OWN STATUTES IN ORDER TO GET INTO OPERATION BY TARGET DATE OF JANUARY 1, 1976. FITZPATRICK COMMENTED THAT IN FEBRUARY 24 MEETING HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE MOST USEFUL ACT OF THE FIRST ASSEMBLY WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH A JURIDICAL COMMISSION TO TIDY-UP THE WTO STATUTES. THORNHILL NOTED THAT "A LOT OF SERIOUS THINKING MUST BE DONE ABOUT WTO."

4. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 2 REFTTEL, THORNHILL WAS NOT AWARE OF PARTICULAR CONSULTATION IN GENEVA ON WTO PRIOR TO MADRID ASSEMBLY, BUT HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE CONTINUING TALKS GOING ON. IN ANY EVENT, THERE ARE REALLY NO RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 24 MEETING TO REPORT TO BROADER GROUP.

REND AHL

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